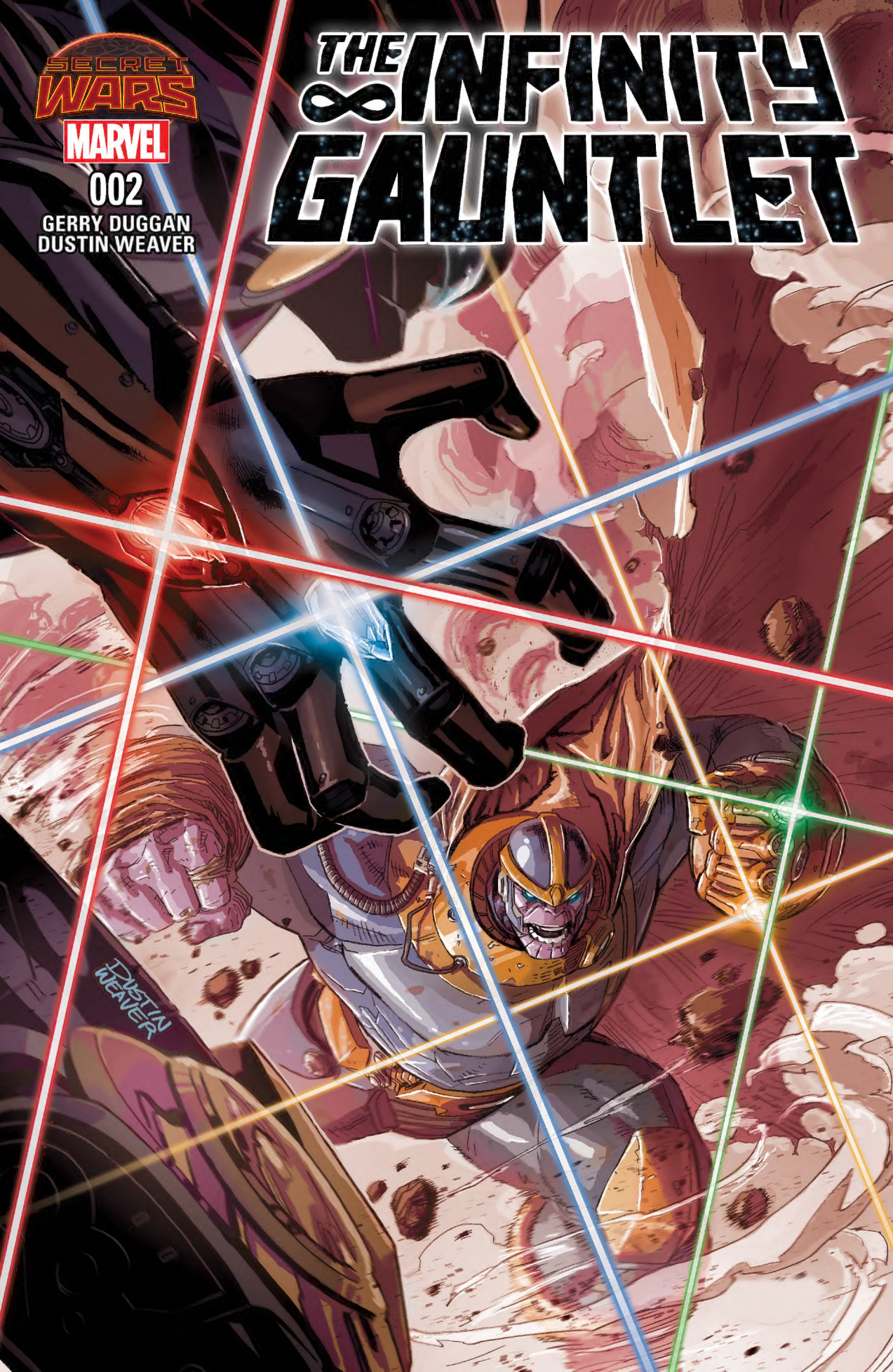
SECRET WARS
MARVEL
002
GERRY DUGGAN
DUSTIN WEAVER
THE INFINITY GAUNTLET
DUSTIN WEAVER

SECRET WARS
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002
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THE INFINITY STONES ARE A POWER BEYOND COMPARE. WHEN BROUGHT TOGETHER,
THEY GRANT THEIR USER COMPLETE CONTROL OVER ALL OF REALITY.
THE SINGULAR DEVICE THAT CAN HOLD ALL THE STONES IS CALLED

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED! THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610
WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT! NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS **BATTLEWORLD**:
A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT
NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!
EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF!

A FAMILY IN ONE SUCH DOMAIN HAS FOUND THEMSELVES SCROUNGING AGAINST THE ODDS
TO FIND FOOD AND SHELTER IN A LAND OVERRUN WITH BLOODTHIRSTY ALIEN INSECTS!
THEIR LONG-LOST MOTHER, A MEMBER OF THE NOVA CORPS.,
IS THEIR ONLY CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL.

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DUSTIN WEAVER &
GERRY DUGGAN

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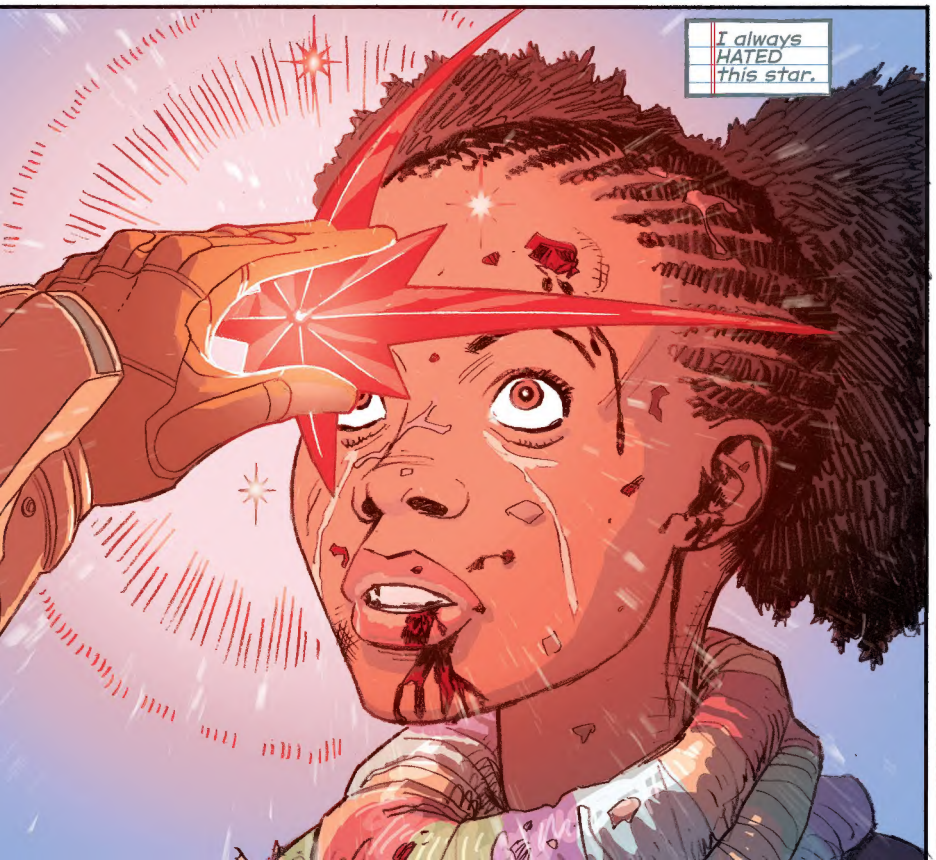
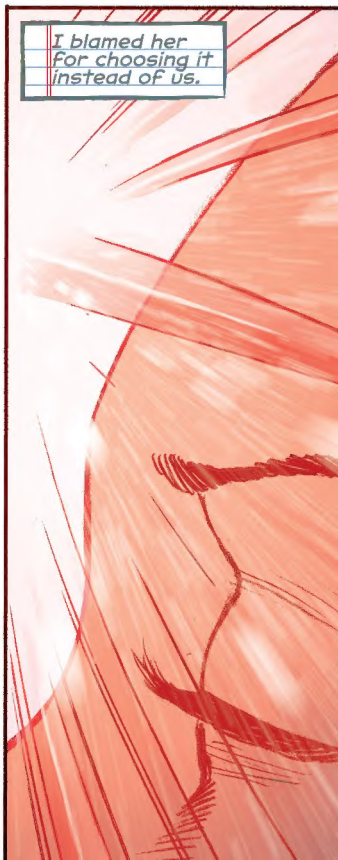
WHAT JUST-- WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
DADDY-- DID YOU SEE THOSE LIGHTS?
THE WHOLE SWARM IS... GONE?
DID YOU SEE HER?
YES, FAYNE... I DID.
YOUR MOTHER'S HOME.
HEY, GUYS!
YOU SHOULD SEE YOUR FACES RIGHT NOW.

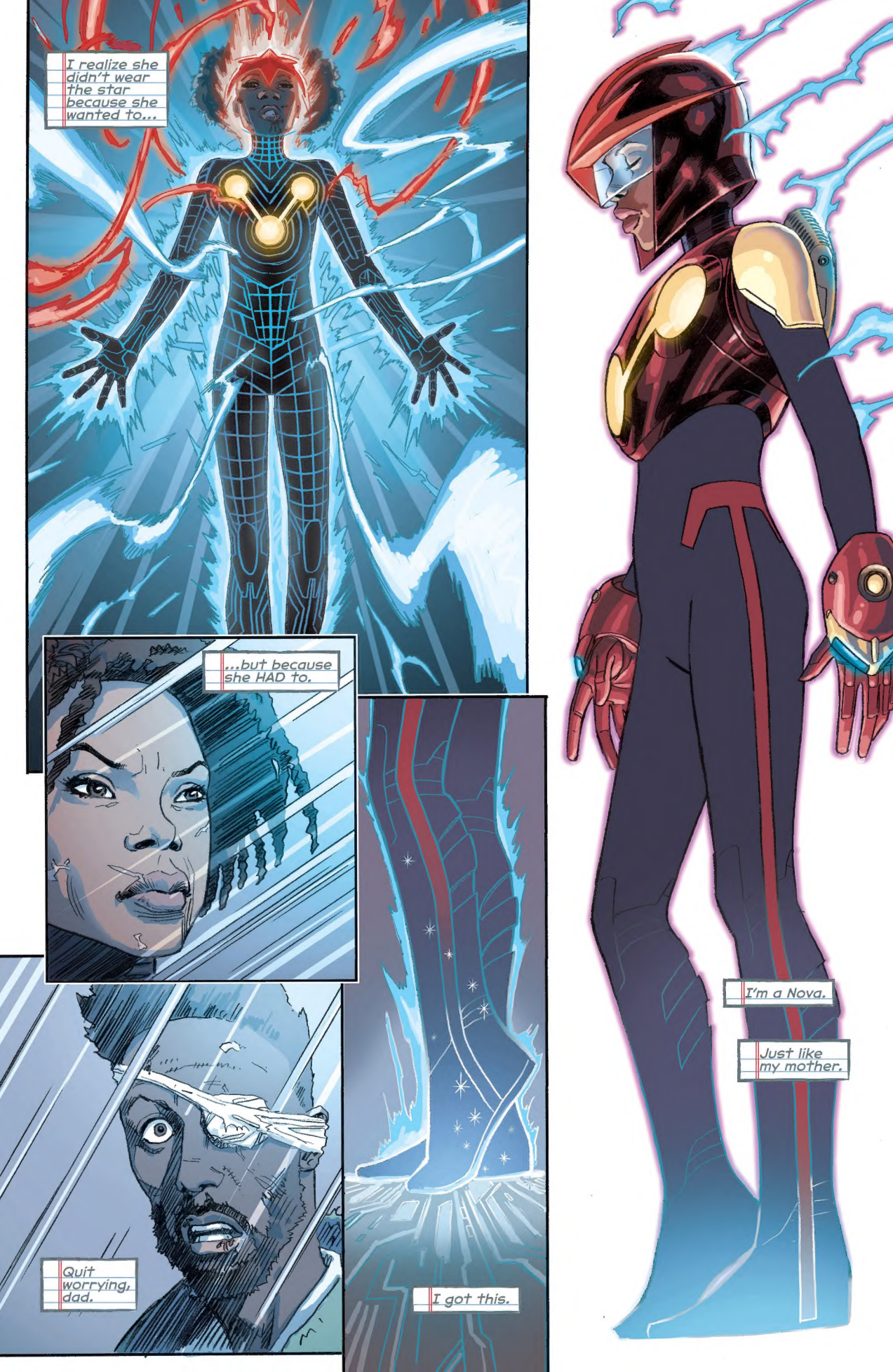
OH, MY BABY GIRL!
I'M SO GLAD YOU GUYS MADE IT.
MOM?
I THOUGHT I LOST YOU.
NEVER!
I'M SORRY I'M LATE.
EVE, IS IT REALLY YOU?
THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?
YOU NEED A SHAVE.
WHERE'S GRAMP?!
WE WERE STUCK IN A--IN A PIPE. AND THE BUGS WERE--ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS STAY INSIDE WITH ME, BUT HE DREW THEM AWAY, AND NOW...
...HE'S GONE.
WE HAVE TO GO BACK! HE COULD--

NO NEED.
I FOUND THIS...
WE HAVE TO KEEP MOVING.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
IT'S JUST-- CAN YOU GIVE ME A SECOND?
NO.
WE HAVE TO *RUCK-UP.*
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
YEAH, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
HOLD-UP. GIVE YOUR MOTHER AND ME A SECOND.
I HAVE A MILLION THINGS I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT, BUT DEBATING WHETHER THIS IS RIGHT ISN'T ONE OF THEM.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
YOU KNOW I AM.
ANWEN, THIS STAR IS FOR YOU.

THEY'RE GIRLS, NOT SOLDIERS.
HOW DO I USE IT?
EVE, I'VE KEPT THEM SAFE WITHOUT THIS.
UNTIL TODAY.
WHY DON'T WE ASK THEM?
CAN I HAVE ONE, TOO?
I'M READY.
MENZIN, THIS IS A GOOD THING.
IS IT?


I always HATED this star.


I blamed her for choosing it instead of us.

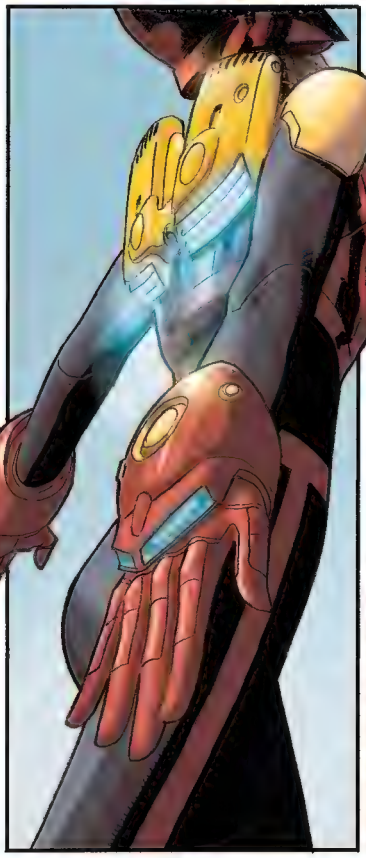

I realize she didn't wear the star because she wanted to...
...but because she HAD to.
Quit worrying, dad.
I got this.
I'm a Nova.
Just like my mother.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HOLY S--
LANGUAGE.
FAYNE, THIS ONE IS FOR YOU.
DON'T BE SCARED.
I'M NOT.
IT'S JUST. I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE ZIGZAG DOWN ON THE GROUND WHEN WE FLY.
...
WE'LL MAKE SURE SHE'S SAFE.
CAN'T WE GIVE HER A STAR, TOO?
I'M SORRY, BUT THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS.
SHE CAN DO IT!
RAWR!
TOLD YOU IT WOULD WORK!
I STAND CORRECTED.
I GUESS THIS SQUAD IS A K-9 OUTFIT.

EVERYBODY STARRED-UP?
GOOD. TRAINING STARTS NOW.
ALWAYS KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN AND YOUR HEAD ON A SWIVEL.
THANKS FOR MAKING IT HOME.
THANK *YOU* FOR KEEPING THEM SAFE.
HOW DO WE FLY?

IT'S NOT USUALLY THE FIRST THING WE TEACH, BUT TIME'S SHORT.

LOOK AT ME-- AND IMAGINE YOU'RE ON A ROPE--BEING CARRIED UP INTO THE SKY.



IT'S HAPPENING!

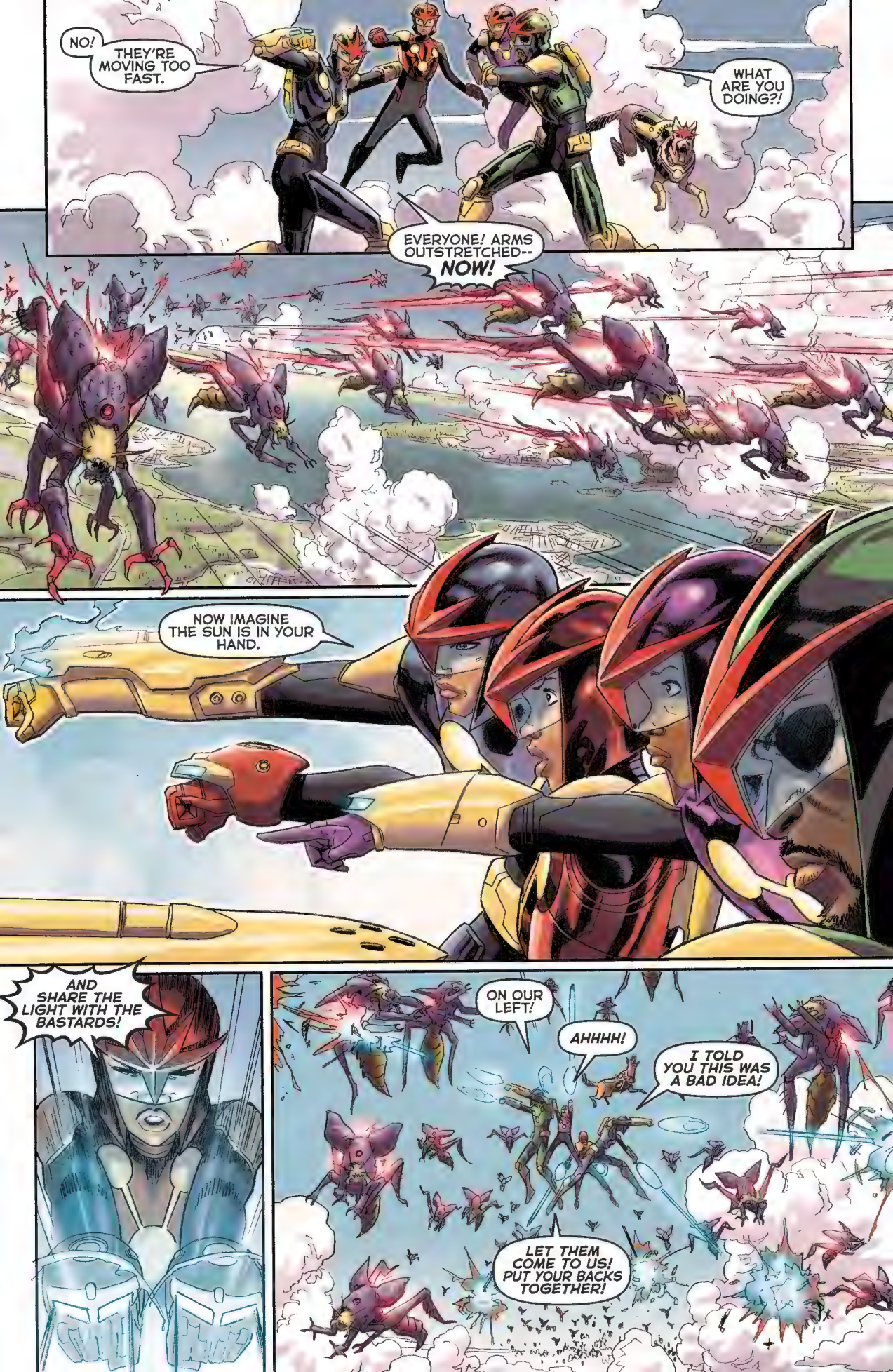
I'M DOING IT, DAD!
YOU SURE ARE, DARLIN'.

I RECOMMEND NOT LOOKING DOWN YET.
THAT'S FOR ADVANCED NOVA-FLYERS ONLY.
TOO LATE.
UGH.
WHAT ABOUT ZIGZAG?

THAT'S WHY I DON'T THINK THIS IS GOING TO WORK.

RAWRF!
I NEED TO STOP DOUBTING THAT DOG.

AMAZING.
FORM UP ON ME. DON'T DRIFT.
FAYNE, HOLD DAD'S HAND IF YOU NEED TO.
THIS DAY IS INSANE. I LOSE GRAMP, I FIND YOU.
HECK NO, MOM. I'LL DO IT MYSELF!
NOT TO MENTION THAT GLOWING ROCK I FOUND ON A DEAD NOVA.
ROCK? DEAD NOVA? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I FOUND *THIS* INSIDE A BUG NEST.
THE MIND STONE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FOUND IT!
WHAT IS IT?!
DOES IT DO SOMETHING?
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY. BUT IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT, WE'VE GOT INCOMING.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.


NO! THEY'RE MOVING TOO FAST.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
EVERYONE! ARMS OUTSTRETCHED-- NOW!
NOW IMAGINE THE SUN IS IN YOUR HAND.
AND SHARE THE LIGHT WITH THE BASTARDS!
ON OUR LEFT!
AHHHH!
I TOLD YOU THIS WAS A BAD IDEA!
LET THEM COME TO US! PUT YOUR BACKS TOGETHER!

I don't know what to do in a fight. Luckily that's not a problem for Zig...
I get caught just staring up at mom... and for a moment, this doesn't seem real. Like I'm somehow imagining all this--
AHHH!
--but she yells at me and I'm right back in the fight.
ANWEN!
FAYNE! YOU NEED TO STEADY YOUR ARM, YOU'RE MISSING ALMOST ALL OF THEM!
Somehow mom and dad manage to scream at each over the sound of our lasers.
SHE'S JUST A KID, EVE.
AND YOU NEED TO SHOOT QUICKER. YOU'RE TOO DAMN SLOW.
GIMME A BREAK! I GOT ONE EYE AND NO DEPTH PERCEPTION!
WHERE'S ANWEN? WE'VE GOT TO--
I NEED YOU HERE. WE'RE GETTING BURIED. SHE HAS TO HANDLE HERSELF.
Used to be, when the bugs came--
--we'd run.
I've never had the ability to FIGHT and WIN...
...but I could get used to this.
NOVAS! ON ME!

THIS ISN'T WORKING.
AGREED!
WE HAVE TO RUN--
YAAARRRGH!
MOM, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
NO. BUT I HAVE TO TRY OR WE'RE DEAD.
THIS STONE GOVERNS THE MIND.
--THE STONE.
WE CAN'T. WE NEED MORE FIREPOWER. WE NEED--
LET'S HOPE THEY HAVE MINDS WE CAN USE.
IT'S WORKING! THEY'RE FLYING AWAY!
WAY TO GO, MOM!
WHY DIDN'T YOU USE THAT ROCK EARLIER?!

NEVER USED ONE OF THESE THINGS BEFORE. HELL, DIDN'T KNOW IF I BELIEVED THEY WERE AS POWERFUL AS I HEARD.
NOW WE CAN JUST SNEAK AWAY!
WE COULD, BUT WE'RE NOT.
SO MUCH POWER. WONDER IF IT CAN WORK *WITH* THE NOVA SUIT...
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU WEAPONS TRAINING AND FLIGHT TRAINING. I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU TO *SURVIVAL SCHOOL*.
BUT HERE'S THE *FIRST RULE* OF BEING A NOVA:
NEVER. SPARE. A. BUG.
WHOA.
DAMN RIGHT.
NOVA HQ IS THIS WAY-- WE CAN HUNKER DOWN THERE FOR THE NIGHT, AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT WE'VE MANAGED TO COLLECT.
KWABOOM
HOLY HELL, THAT'S THE BIGGEST DAMN TRAIL I'VE EVER SEEN!
NO, NO, *NO!*

A SWARM COULDN'T DO THAT-- IT MUST HAVE BEEN A BEHEMOTH!
EVE... I'M SORRY. HOW MANY?
THIRTY.
IS THERE ANOTHER BASE THEY COULD HAVE FALLEN BACK--
THIS WAS IT. THIS WAS THE LAST ONE.
OH, NO.
THE OTHER STONE!
WHO COULD HAVE KNOWN WE HID A STONE DOWN HERE?

WHAT IS THIS THING?
IT'S *THE GAUNTLET.* AND IT USED TO HOLD ONE OF THE OTHER STONES THAT MY CORPS FOUND. IT'S WHAT PUT US ON THE TRAIL OF THE STONES IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THEY'RE AN ANCIENT AND POWERFUL TECHNOLOGY. THEY WEREN'T MEANT TO BE HANDLED...AT LEAST BY US.
I COULD BARELY HOLD IT TOGETHER WITH THE ONE. IF I HAD THE OTHERS?
THE GAUNTLET PROTECTS THE USER AND HELPS US WIELD THE STONES.
THERE ARE SIX. EACH WITH A DIFFERENT POWER.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
IF THE STONES CAN BE REASSEMBLED, WE COULD GET RID OF THE BUGS ONCE AND FOR ALL, AND... MAYBE MORE, I DON'T KNOW.
AND THE BUGS WOULD WANT THESE? I MEAN, THEY DON'T SEEM LIKE THE JEWELRY TYPE.
SOMEONE USED THE BUG ATTACK AS A COVER TO STEAL THE STONE.
YOU'RE *LATE.*

I THOUGHT WIZARDS ARE NEVER LATE, THEY JUST SHOW UP WHENEVER.
WHAT DID YOU FIND?
NOTHING. I WAS WRONG. THAT PLACE WAS A BUST. ALL THE NOVAS WERE DEAD AND GONE. SORRY I DRAGGED YOU OUT THIS WAY.
I KNOW YOU'RE LYING TO ME.
IMPOSSIBLE. I DON'T HAVE A "TELL."
YOU HAVE MORE THAN I CAN COUNT, AND THE BIGGEST ONE IS WHEN YOU PUT THAT MASK ON OVER YOUR LYING FACE.
NOW, SHOW ME WHAT YOU FOUND.
I WAS HOPING THE NOVAS HAD ALL THE STONES, BUT JUST THEY JUST HAS THE ONE. STILL, SHOULD FETCH A PRETTY PENNY IF WE CAN FIND THE RIGHT BUYER.

THE FUTURE.
I WILL CRUSH THE LIFE FROM YOU! JUST LIKE I DID TO THE REST OF YOUR FAMILY!
YOU GET SO CUTE WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY, AND IT'S ADORABLE THAT YOU MADE YOUR OWN KNOCK-OFF NOVA GAUNTLET.
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
BUT IT'S A PALE IMITATION TO THE REAL THING.
YEAANGG!
THIS ISN'T REVENGE... THIS IS JUSTICE.
WHAM
FOR EVERYONE YOU'VE KILLED.

ALL OF THIS IS YOUR FAULT. THE DESTRUCTION. THE DEATH. THE BUGS. THEIR WAVE OF ANNIHILATION WOULD NEVER HAVE FOUND OUR SHORES IF YOU HAD NOT DIRECTED THEM HERE.
BEFORE I DESTROY YOU-- TELL ME *WHY.*
HOW ELSE WOULD I GET THE CORPS TO BETRAY ITS VOW TO NEVER ASSEMBLE THE STONES AGAIN?
YOU WANTED THE STONES-- YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET THEM.
I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO CONTINUE THIS ANOTHER TIME.
FWOOM
COME BACK, YOU COWARD!
AGAIN.
THE SAME DAMN OUTCOME... *AGAIN.*
COME FORTH. I KNOW YOU ARE HERE.

IT HAS HAPPENED THE SAME WAY, ONCE AGAIN.
THEN I WILL JUST HAVE TO TRY HARDER.
I THINK NOT.
WHAT ARE YOU--
IT'S TIME FOR A NEW STRATEGY.
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT:

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